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BOOK REVIEWS.

HANDBOOK OF THE LAW OF INSURANCE. By William Reynolds Vance, Professor of Law in George Washington University, Washington, D. C. West Publishing Co., St. Paul, Minn. 1904.

The author of this work is well-known to the profession in this State. He was formerly dean of the law faculty of Washington & Lee University, where for several years he taught the law of insurance. His work, therefore, will be of peculiar value to the Virginia lawyer, who can be sure that Mr. Vance has not overlooked any principle of the law of insurance as enunciated by our Virginia courts. While a resident of this State, Mr. Vance impressed the profession as a profound student of the law, and his new book will be received with weight both by the bench and bar.

The work is one of the West Pub. Co.'s Hornbook series, the special features of which are: 1st. A succinct statement of the leading principles in large black-letter type; 2nd. A more extended commentary, elucidating the principles; 3rd. Notes and authorities. The work deals with fire, life, marine, accident, guaranty, credit and liability insurance. It is not a mere collection of authorities brought together and classified, but is evidently the product of a master who has a thorough grasp of his subject. The book is exceedingly valuable to the practitioner, but is especially adapted for the use of students, and we predict its speedy adoption by the law schools of the country.

THE LAW OF WATERS AND WATER RIGHTS — International, National, State, Municipal, and Individual — Including Irrigation, Drainage, and Municipal Water Supply By Henry Farnham, M. L., Associate Editor of the *Lawyers' Reports Annotated*. 3 vols. The Lawyers' Co-operative Publishing Company, Rochester, N. Y. 1904.

To Virginia lawyers, this work will fill a long-felt need. Its scope is so broad and its treatment so thorough that there is hardly any branch of the profession that it will not benefit. It will be of peculiar value to those interested in the rights connected with the great oyster and fish industry of the Commonwealth. Part I, treats of the Rights of States and Nations: Part II, of the Rights Between Public and Individual; and Part III, of the Rights Between Individuals. The work contains over twenty-nine hundred pages, and some idea may be gotten of the minuteness of its treatment from the fact that the author devotes seventy pages to the subject of *Ferries*, and ninety to the subject of *Fisheries*. The character of the work done cannot be better described than the author has done in his preface. After stating the apparent impossibility of reconciling the rules laid down in the different jurisdictions in the seventeen thousand cases on this subject, the author says: ". . . In every case, general statements of rules must be ignored, and only the actual decision relied upon, and that has been done in the present volumes, except so far as it has been found necessary to show the non-existence of, or the necessary limitation upon, gen-

eral rules as they have been broadly stated. . . . All American reports have been examined page by page and all English cases which have been referred to by digests, text-writers, or judges as involving the question of water rights have been read, and every case which throws any light upon any branch of the subject of waters is referred to in these volumes. . . . The fundamental principles have been stated, and then their application by the courts has been developed by showing the holdings in the particular cases, instead of grouping them under general statements with nothing to indicate their bearing."

BRIEF UPON THE PLEADINGS IN CIVIL ACTIONS AT LAW, IN EQUITY, AND UNDER THE NEW PROCEDURE. By Austin Abbott, of the New York Bar. Second and enlarged edition by the publishers' editorial staff. The Lawyers' Co-operative Publishing Company, Rochester, N. Y. 1904.

This edition is much more extensive than the first. It is published in two volumes containing two thousand one hundred and twenty pages. It is one of the series of Abbott's Trial Briefs, which have proven so popular with the practitioner. The whole series furnish a most practical aid to the trial lawyer, especially on the eve of the trial, when new phases of his case are apt to present themselves, and when there remains only a limited time for research. The first volume of the Brief on Pleading is devoted to Demurrer, the second to Issues of Fact. Errors in pleading are generally attributable to the ignorance or carelessness of the lawyer. They are, therefore, always more or less humiliating and often result in delay and expense, and sometimes in the loss of case and client. The practitioner would therefore do well to surround himself with the best aids to accuracy in pleading, among the first of which is the work under review.

A TREATISE ON THE SYSTEM OF EVIDENCE IN TRIALS AT COMMON LAW, INCLUDING THE STATUTES AND JUDICIAL DECISIONS OF ALL JURISDICTIONS OF THE UNITED STATES. By John Henry Wigmore, Professor of the Law of Evidence in the Law School of Northwestern University. Four volumes. Little, Brown & Co., Boston. 1904.

This is no ordinary production. It evidently comes from the mind of a man well versed in the philosophy of law. He has had the advantage of the work of such masters as Greenleaf, Starkie and Thayer, and he has improved on them all. He not only states the existing law, but gives its history and a critical discussion of its component parts with a view to its improvement. The author states that the law of evidence today is a blended mass of statutes and rulings, and expresses the opinion that the time for a real Code of Evidence has not yet come.

Only one volume of the work is before us, although two volumes are on the market. The work is divided into four parts. First, Relevancy; second, Rules of Auxiliary Probative Policy; third, Rules of Extrinsic Policy; fourth, Parol Evidence Rule. The first volume takes up but does not complete the subject of Relevancy.